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VIRTUAL V-E DAY CELEBRATION PLANNED BY FIRST DIVISION MUSEUM

*Public invited to honor WWII veterans by submitting short videos;
1940s-style music, fashion, dance and cocktails encouraged!*

Wheaton, Ill., April 15, 2020 – The COVID-19 pandemic isn't stopping the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park from marking the 75th anniversary of V-E Day, the joyous end of World War II in Europe. A full day of celebratory activities had been planned at the park. Now the party is going digital and all are invited to join in honoring and thanking our WWII veterans.

In particular, the museum is asking the public to record 10-second videos with smart phones and upload them to the FDMuseum.org by Tuesday, May 5. The segments will be used in a "Cheer for Victory" video available for viewing on May 8, exactly 75 years after Victory in Europe Day in 1945.

Honor Flight Chicago is helping promote the video's creation and plans to share the final product with as many WWII veterans as possible.

Video content ideas include sharing photos of family members who served; swing dancing; 1940s fashion and songs; homemade confetti tossing; and banging on pots and pans. More suggestions and video tips are posted on the First Division Museum website.

The site features other ways to participate in the virtual celebration, including family activities, and links to educational V-E Day videos. Those sporting vintage victory-inspired fashions are encouraged to share their photos at #FDMVEDAY. Or get in the spirit by hosting a virtual Toast to Victory party with friends, serving up popular cocktails from the WWII era. Recipes and a suggested toast script are posted online.

For more information, please visit FDMuseum.org.

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About the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park

The First Division Museum, part of Robert R. McCormick Foundations, promotes public learning about America's military heritage and affairs through the history of the "Big Red One"—the famed 1st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. The museum's main exhibit hall, First in War, transports visitors to the trenches of World War I, the beaches of World War II and the jungles of Vietnam. Outside, tanks are displayed from every era, along with artillery pieces and a personnel carrier. The Robert R. McCormick Research Center, open to the public, houses the museum's library, archival and photo collections. For more information, visit FDMuseum.org.